

REMARKS

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oh (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,386), rejected claims 3-4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Oh and Asanuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,071), and rejected claims 7 and 15 as being unpatentable over a combination of Oh and Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,779,835).

Of the claims which have been rejected, claims 1 and 11 are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to specifically claim a headlamp adjuster which includes an expandable member on the housing, and an end of an adjuster member is receivable in the expandable member, wherein the expandable member is configured to expand upon an end of the adjuster member contacting and pushing on the expandable member to accommodate retraction of the adjuster member. Claim 11 has been amended to specifically claim a method of adjusting a position of a reflector of a headlamp assembly, wherein the method includes retracting an adjuster member of a headlamp adjuster; and using an expandable member of the headlamp adjuster to contactably receive an end of the adjuster member as the adjuster member retracts and expand to accommodate retraction of the adjuster member.

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In rejecting the claims, the Examiner cites primarily United States Patent No. 6,471,386 (Oh). However, the Oh reference does not even disclose a headlamp adjuster. While the Examiner asserts that part number 15 is an adjuster member, part number 15 is merely a snap fitting pin. While the reference does disclose a bellows spring bracket (part number 13), the bellows is not used to accommodate the retraction of an adjuster member. In contrast, the bellows spring bracket is provided to withstand impact (see, for example, col. 3, lines 37-40). In light of these differences, and the differences between what is being specifically claimed in claims 1 and 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 11 of the present application, and those claims which depend therefrom, are allowable.

Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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